

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows. A version of the rewritten claim, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the claim, is contained on a separate page attached hereto as Appendix A.

1. (Twice amended) An electron beam physical vapor deposition coating apparatus comprising:
 - a coating chamber at an elevated temperature and a subatmospheric pressure;
 - a crucible within the coating chamber;
 - a coating material surrounded by and contained within the crucible, the coating material having a surface exposed by the crucible;
 - an electron beam gun projecting an electron beam onto the surface of the coating material, the electron beam defining a beam pattern having a higher intensity at an interface of the surface of the coating material with the crucible than at a central region of the surface of the coating material.